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PTO/SB/21 (6-98)
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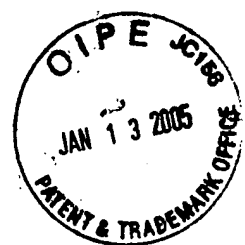
TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/696,056	
	Filing Date	October 29, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Freudenrich, et al.	
	Group Art Unit	Unknown	
	Examiner Name	Unknown	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	CFLAY.00207

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance mailed on November 17, 2004	

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Chad Walter
Signature	
Date	January 10, 2005

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Typed or printed name	Rhonda K. McGee
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Freudenrich, et al.	§	GROUP ART UNIT: 1761
	§	
FILED: October 29, 2003	§	
	§	
INVENTION: Improved Nixtamalization Process	§	EXAMINER: Milton Cano
	§	
SERIAL No: 10/696,056	§	ATTY FILE: CFLAY.00207

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants believe that Examiner's Reasons For Allowance set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed on November 17, 2004 are incomplete.

The Examiner states that the claimed process is directed towards a nixtamalization process (steps a through k) with a conservation step (step c) to reuse the alkaline solution in multiple batches.

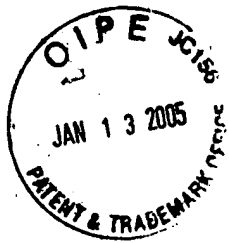
The Examiner further indicates that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed step of draining only the grain slurry from the cooking kettle and leaving the alkaline supernate in the kettle to be used with the next processing batch.

Applicants assert that another novel aspect of the claimed invention is the conservation that occurs at step j) when fresh water from a washing step is sent to a collection tank so that it may be used as "push water" in step e) to transport the masa slurry from a soak tank to a hopper.

Respectfully submitted,

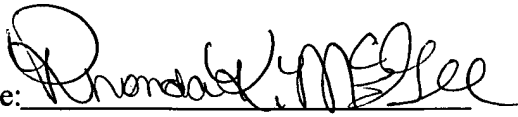
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Name: 
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